

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9 (Canceled)

10. (Original) An ion generator which comprises a needle electrode, a ground electrode cooperable with the needle electrode to generate a corona discharge in the air to produce ions, an outer body disposed at or in a vicinity of an ion blowoff port, and a resistance element through which the ground electrode is connected with the outer body.

11. (Previously Presented) The ion generator as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the resistance element is made of a material having a high resistance or a semiconductor.

12. (Previously Presented) The ion generator as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the outer body is a brush head of a hairbrush.

13. (Previously Presented) The ion generator as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising an electroconductive plate connected with the outer body, said electroconductive plate and said ground electrode being electrically connected together through the resistance element.

14. (Original) An ion generator which comprises a needle electrode, a ground electrode cooperable with the needle electrode to generate a corona discharge in the air to produce ions, an outer body disposed on an ion emission side and exposed to an outside, said outer body being made of an antistatic material and connected with the ground electrode.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A hairbrush which comprises;
an ion generator for emitting ions; and
a brush head having a brush base formed with a multiplicity of bristles, said brush base having an opening defined therein for passage of the ions from the ion generator to an outside of the hairbrush;

wherein some of the bristles around the opening in the brush base are removed to provide a plain surface area where no bristle exist,

wherein the ion generator includes a discharge electrode and wherein a surface area encompassed by a cone having its apex occupied by the discharge electrode and flaring outwardly away from the discharge electrode and passing in touch with a peripheral lip region defining the opening in the brush base has no bristle.

17. (Original) The hairbrush as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a portion of the brush base around the opening is made of a material having a low electroconductivity.

18. (Original) The hairbrush as claimed in Claim 17, wherein a portion of the brush base around the opening is made of an electrically insulating material.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A hairbrush which comprises;
an ion generator for emitting ions; and
a brush head having a brush base formed with a multiplicity of bristles, said brush base having an opening defined therein for passage of the ions from the ion generator to an outside of the hairbrush;

wherein some of the bristles around the opening in the brush base are removed to provide a plain surface area where no bristle exist,

further comprising an ion guide tube made of an electrically insulating material intervening between the ion generator and the brush base for guiding the ions towards an outside of the hairbrush.